

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING
TYLER-JAMISON ON HER RE-
TIREMENT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend Berlinda Tyler-Jamison on her retirement from UnityPoint Health-Trinity after 28 years. During her time at UnityPoint she created programs like "Stylin' Against Breast Cancer" and the "Trinity Golf Tournament," which annually raise tens of thousands of dollars for their important causes.

Berlinda's hard work has extended beyond her professional career. She dedicates her time to the Rock Island community as the president of the county branch of the NAACP and has served on the Rock Island Planning Commission as well as on the boards for MetroLINK and Arrowhead Ranch.

Over the years, Berlinda's commitment to creating a more diverse and welcoming community has never faltered. Even now as she prepares for this next part of her life, she plans to remain active and involved in bettering our community in Rock Island County. Her passion for serving others is truly outstanding.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Berlinda for everything she has given the Rock Island community and congratulate her on her well-deserved retirement. I have faith that her future endeavors will be successful.

THE SONGS OF THE FLAG ORGANIZATION (SOTF)—A RESOURCE FOR BURN SURVIVORS

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of THE SONS OF THE FLAG organization, which was founded in Dallas, Texas by Ryan "Birdman" Parrot in 2012. Parrot, a Navy SEAL who served 8 years as a member of SEAL Team 7 completed 3 tours in Iraq before being assigned to advanced Training Command. While riding in a Humvee, he and his team were hit by an IED with most of his crew sustaining life threatening burn injuries. Upon retirement he moved to Dallas, Texas, and was inspired by Ret. Capt Sam Brown's strength and courage despite all his debilitating scarring. Not happy with the advancements in treatment for burns compared to the advancement of prosthetics he founded this organization to help: military, first responders, and civilian burn survivors. SOTF is bringing together community leaders, renowned burn surgeons, experienced military, dedicated first responders, and purposeful citizens to com-

plete our mission. We partnered with Parkland Hospital in Dallas, Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, and Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. I submit this poem penned in their honor by Albert Carey Caswell.

SO PROUDLY WE WAVE

(By Albert Carey Caswell)

This is war
There's another battle to be waged
There are so many magnificent heroes who
need our help this day

And just like them,
the words no surrender we all say
As so proudly to them we wave
On this very day
So high up above
All in their love
For all of those and what they gave
Whether, on battlefields of honor bright
Or First Responders and Fire Fighters who
into infernos go this night

And all of those citizens so left to fight
The scars of a Burn Survivor's plight
For beauty is but skin deep
As it's all in our souls where we so keep
All of our faith and courage,
that we all so need to find the will to dig in
deep

Is that but not the beauty we all seek?
To so fight for their cause
The eyes of Texas are upon us,
and we shall not pause
Carried all in our hearts,
for this Old Red, White, and Blue so very
deep

Taking the charge
For advancements,
for all of those heroes who lives now loom so
very large

Who upon battlefields of honor bright
Or rushing into burning buildings with
hearts of courage full to bring their
light

Who are in the business of saving lives
Whether for our brothers and sisters to their
left,

to their right
Or in burning buildings oh what heroic
sights

To somehow repay them for all of their sac-
rifice

For we will help champion your battle for
your victory,

over this fight
And help you one and all,
to get on with your most magnificent of all
lives

Where you go

We go

We've got your six,
for this is all that you need to know

Just like the American flag,
you too should be treated with such honor
so

They Gave,
now its time for us To Give
Just like The American flag,
you too so proudly wave in all you did
And remember no matter how dark the
night,

The Sons of Flag have got your six,
for all you heroes whose hearts burn bright

TRIBUTE TO VIRGINIA CARMODY

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Virginia Carmody to the community of Onondaga County, New York. A resident of Onondaga Hill, Mrs. Carmody has served as the Executive Director of the Literacy Coalition of Onondaga County for over 6 years. In her role as Executive Director, Mrs. Carmody has established and led expansive literacy programs in Onondaga County, working towards the goal of complete literacy in the County.

In 2010, Mrs. Carmody oversaw the implementation of the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program in the City of Syracuse, New York. The program has provided over 68,000 free books to over 4,500 children in the city. In addition, Mrs. Carmody manages adult literacy initiatives, such as an adult literacy database.

Due to the work of the Literacy Coalition of Onondaga County promoting early reading, spearheaded by Mrs. Carmody, the National Campaign for Grade-Level Reading recognized Syracuse as one of 38 municipalities across the country, as a 2013 Pacesetter.

Mrs. Carmody previously served for over 26 years in the Congressional offices of three New York Representatives. Mrs. Carmody serves on the boards of Syracuse 20/20, the Onondaga Citizens League, Visions for Change, and is a member of the Rotary Club of Syracuse. She holds a Master of Public Administration degree from American University and a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences degree in Elementary Education from the College of St. Rose. She is supported by her husband, Mitch and two children, Riley and Christina.

Virginia Carmody has worked fervently to improve literacy in Onondaga County through community engagement. I am proud to congratulate Mrs. Carmody in her deserving receipt of the Women Who Make America Award.

RECOGNIZING KIDNEY DAY AT
THE MISSOURI STATE CAPITOL

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging Kidney Day at the Missouri State Capitol on Thursday, March 5, 2015. This important day is supported by the Missouri Kidney Program and the National Kidney Foundation.

The mission of the Missouri Kidney Program is to help meet the educational needs, and to promote the physical and mental well-being of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

eligible Missouri residents with Chronic Kidney Disease. The National Kidney Foundation participates in research that is helping advance knowledge about chronic kidney disease, treatment, and patient outcomes.

The Missouri Kidney Program and the National Kidney Foundation should both be commended for highlighting three major areas of kidney disease: awareness, prevention, and treatment. The Missouri Kidney Program strives to increase public awareness of the need for organ donation and to encourage kidney donations for transplantation. The goal of the National Kidney Foundation is to reach those at risk before kidney disease occurs, and impact those in earliest stages so that progression to later-stage disease is no longer inevitable.

I ask you in joining me in recognizing the dedication of the Missouri Kidney Program and the National Kidney Foundation.

STANDING WITH ISRAEL

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, before a joint session of Congress, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke of the threat of an Iran with nuclear weapons capability.

Prime Minister Netanyahu is absolutely right to be concerned. The world cannot tolerate a nuclear Iranian regime. The Obama administration is signaling it will support temporarily restricting, not eliminating, Iran's potential to produce nuclear weapons, but I believe it is critical that we act to ensure Iran does not obtain nuclear capabilities. Further, any deal reached by the State Department and Iran regarding their nuclear program needs to include Congressional involvement.

As a strong supporter of Israel, I am concerned about the instability and the animosity that exists toward one of our strongest allies. Though there may be widespread ignorance in the international community about the conflict between Israel and those who seek its destruction, the simple truth is that throughout history Israel has made numerous concessions in the pursuit of peace while seeking only the right to exist and defend itself from all threats.

A strong Israel is key to stability and security in the Middle East, and I will continue to stand with our friend and ally.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FORMER GUAM SPEAKER FRANKLIN J.A. QUITUGUA, PH.D.

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my dear friend Franklin J.A. Quitugua, Ph.D. Dr. Quitugua was an educator and leader in our community. He served as the head of the Guam Department of Education for many years and was a Guam Senator in the 14th to the 20th Guam Legislatures. Dr. Quitugua passed away on February 26, 2015 at the age of 81.

Franklin was born on November 6, 1933 to Ignacio Perez Quitugua and Rosa Santos Arceo Quitugua. He graduated from George Washington High School in 1952, and went on to attend Northern Arizona University. He graduated in 1956 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education.

Upon graduating from college, Franklin returned to Guam and taught at George Washington High School. He then went back to Northern Arizona University where he earned his Master of Arts degree in 1962. Franklin again returned home to serve his island community. He became the principal of George Washington Junior High School then was appointed the administrative assistant to the Director of Education in 1968. Franklin was subsequently promoted to Deputy Director of Education before being appointed the Director of Education in 1969.

As Director of Education, Franklin worked tirelessly to improve Guam's public school system. He implemented training for central office staff, administrators, and school employees while developing core curriculum department-wide. Franklin took a short break as Director of Education from 1972 to 1975 to pursue a Ph.D. at the University of Oregon. Upon receiving his Ph.D., he returned as Director of Education until running for the Guam Legislature.

In 1976, Dr. Quitugua was elected to the 14th Guam Legislature and he went on to serve seven terms as a Guam Senator. He chaired the Committee on Education and was chosen by his colleagues as the Speaker of the 19th Guam Legislature. I was privileged to serve as a Senator alongside Speaker Quitugua during the 16th, 19th, and 20th Guam Legislatures, and I remember him fondly as being a strong advocate on many issues and a leader who always worked across party lines to build bipartisan support for many legislative initiatives.

Speaker Quitugua not only continued his legacy as a staunch advocate for education during his time as Senator, but for the entire island community. He improved access to education for Guam's students and enhanced facilities and educational resources available on island. He fought for increased funding to sustain a growing student population and promoted alternative educational programs to meet the increased demands on the public school system.

After his last term in the 20th Guam Legislature, Dr. Quitugua returned as Director of Education until he retired in 1993. He served the people of Guam faithfully and humbly for nearly 40 years, and he enjoyed spending his retirement years with his family.

I join the people of Guam in mourning the loss of Speaker Franklin J.A. Quitugua. I had the distinct honor of serving with him in the Legislature, and his passion for our island's issues will be remembered. Franklin was a true public servant who fought for our children and their right to education. I extend my sincere condolences to his children and loved ones on their loss. I commend Speaker Quitugua for his years of service to the island as a public servant and dedicated guardian of education. My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time. He will be deeply missed.

HONORING DR. LOUIS CHARLES ROUDANEZ

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Louis Charles Roudanez, founder and publisher of the first daily African American newspaper in the United States, on the 125th anniversary of his death.

Dr. Roudanez, a free man of color and native Louisianian from St. James Parish, founded the New Orleans Tribune to serve as an outspoken voice for the interests of African Americans during a period of turmoil and uncertainty during the final year of the Civil War and early Reconstruction. The Tribune aggressively advocated for civil rights, black suffrage, desegregated public education, and better wages and working conditions for freed slaves. It operated under the radical philosophy that "freedom without equality before the law and at the ballot box is impossible." Although primarily a lens to conditions in Louisiana, the paper worked towards reforming all of Southern society by sending a copy of each issue to every Member of Congress. It quickly received national recognition, and its editorials were often read here on the floor of Congress.

Though the Tribune ceased publishing in 1870, its spirit of advocacy, justice, fairness and uncompromising purpose was invoked in 1985 by Dr. Dwight and Beverly Stanton McKenna, when they began their newspaper and named it in honor of Dr. Roudanez's Tribune. The modern-day Tribune continues to offer an invaluable voice on issues affecting the Black community in New Orleans and around the country.

To honor Dr. Roudanez, I would like to share part of the Tribune's mission statement, published in July 1864 on the front page of its first issue: "Under the above title we publish a new paper devoted to the principles heretofore defended by the Union. Convinced that a newspaper, under the present circumstances, representing the principles and interest which we propose to defend and advocate was much needed in New Orleans, we shall spare no means at our command to render the Tribune worthy of public confidence and respect." Today we recognize the fulfillment of Dr. Roudanez's mission. In commemoration of his life and achievements, a monument has been dedicated to Dr. Roudanez at the building that housed the Tribune.

CONGRATULATING FRED WHITESIDE ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Fred Whiteside on his retirement from serving as Augustana College's women's cross country and track coach. Fred is rightfully being honored by Augustana, his alma mater, for his longstanding dedication to the Augustana community.

Fred served a total of 61 seasons as a head coach of Vikings' athletic teams. He has led

the Vikings to 12 CCIW track and field titles and 7 CCIW cross country titles during his tenure. Throughout his years at Augustana College, Fred has worked in various capacities including director of off-campus housing, director of custodial services, director of intramurals and associate athletic director.

Fred has enriched the lives of all those around him, students, faculty and other community members, and is a true leader. Fred has had a wonderful 33 year career at Augustana College, and I know he will be greatly missed as he enters retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Fred for his commitment to the Augustana Community, and I congratulate him again on his well-earned retirement and wish him luck with his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING JAMES JENDRUSINA
ON THE OCCASION OF EARNING
THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize James Jendrusina, of Bessemer, Michigan and his achievement in earning the Congressional Award. The Congressional Award recognizes four avenues of individual growth—community service, physical fitness, exploration, and personal development—and how the fulfillment of these goals forms balanced and promising young citizens. In their pursuit of these goals, recipients of the Congressional Awards have gained new skills and greater confidence.

In earning his Congressional Award, James volunteered over 200 hours of service through the Boy Scouts, where he focused on teaching younger scouts about service opportunities and how they are able to enrich the communities in which they live. He was also able to introduce bats to the Little Girls Campground to try to control the mosquito population.

For his personal development, James dedicated his time to learn about agriculture by planting and taking care of his own garden. Through this experience he learned how to control pests, preserve vegetables and eventually harvest the fruits of his labor.

For his Physical Education, James chose to focus on healthy eating and working out. By running and adding a weight routine to his exercises, he was able to achieve an understanding of what is needed to ensure a healthy lifestyle.

For his Expedition, James traveled to Alaska and visited the Kenai Peninsula to learn how to fish using varying techniques.

I believe the projects undertaken by James will be the cornerstone for future achievements and a commitment to bettering one's self and their community. Please join me in congratulating James for his accomplishments and for success in the future.

200,000 MILES DRIVEN AND NO
PLAN TO RETIRE

HON. TIM HUELKAMP

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. HUELKAMP. Mr. Speaker, last week I was deeply honored to welcome James Price and his wife Ellen into our D.C. office. They were in town representing the Disabled American Veterans and shared with me about how they serve our Kansas Veterans. For over twenty years Jim and Ellen have generously coordinated transportation services for our Veterans to the closest Veteran Affairs Medical Center in either Topeka or Wichita.

Four days a week for over two decades, this couple has helped transport our rural Veterans in the greater Salina area who cannot get the necessary health care services at the local Community Based Outpatient Clinic. I want to commend their dedication and selfless sacrifice; they have made a very tangible difference in the lives of so many Kansas Veterans.

Up until just a few years ago, Ellen coordinated with the Salina VA clinic and set up weekly transportation schedules for all the medical appointments for local veterans traveling to Wichita and Topeka. And Jim did much of the driving. In fact, during my conversation with Mr. Price, he reported that since he started driving vans for the VA over twenty years ago, he has logged over 200,000 miles as a volunteer. And at over eighty years old, he has no plans to retire.

Jim and Ellen Price are shining examples of the many men and women who served us in the military and go beyond the call of duty to serve long after they leave the military. Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Price, for your selfless dedication and commitment—and to the thousands of others across the First District of Kansas—who do so much to serve our Veterans.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF DE
PERE, WISCONSIN ON ITS 125TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. REID J. RIBBLE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of De Pere, Wisconsin as it celebrates its 125th anniversary.

Father Claude-Jean Allouez, a Jesuit missionary and explorer, is credited with founding this community when he established the St. Francis Xavier mission in 1671. The name was derived from rapids on the Fox River with settlers referring to this area as Rapides Des Peres.

The historic Fox River has always been part of the fabric of this community; dividing it between east and west for many years. In 1890, the communities of West De Pere and De Pere merged, and as a result the unified City of De Pere continues to thrive and grow. Today, the city boasts around 24,000 residents, and has several buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places such as the De Pere Lock and Dam Historic District, the North Broadway Street Historic District,

Main Hall on the St. Norbert College campus, and several other wonderful places.

St. Norbert College is a major institution of higher learning inside the city that is home to more than 2,000 students pursuing a wide variety of degrees, and to this day vigorously pursues their motto "To teach by word and example." It is my great honor to recognize the City of De Pere, the city leaders past and present, and the residents who have contributed so greatly toward the community as it stands today. I extend my congratulations and all the best in the next 125 years!

RECOGNIZING THE 10TH MOUNTAIN
DIVISION ON THEIR 30TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, let us honor and recognize the 10th Mountain Division on their 30th anniversary for their service to Fort Drum, the 21st District of New York, our North Country community and our nation. For the past thirty years, the brave men and women of the 10th Mountain Division have stood in harm's way to protect and defend our country. Since September 11th, 2001, the 10th Mountain Division has been the most actively deployed division to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Too many of our nation's service members have made the ultimate sacrifice and lost their lives while in service. We cannot repay the debt we owe these service men and women and their families, but we can work to honor their legacy and recognize what they have done for us. We must protect the promises that we have made to these brave individuals and strengthen our nation's commitment to helping them as they return home from combat. As leaders in Congress we have an obligation to serve our constituents and members of our armed forces.

I am honored to serve on the House Armed Services Committee and as the Vice-Chair for the Subcommittee on Readiness and as a member of the Subcommittees on Personnel and Emerging Threats and Capabilities. As a member of these subcommittees I will fight to ensure the Defense Department, our troops and Fort Drum have the necessary tools and resources they require to defend our nation from those that wish to do us harm.

On this 30th anniversary, let us honor and reflect all that the 10th Mountain Division and Fort Drum has done for our community and our nation, and let us pledge to work together to preserve and strengthen this institution for many years to come. Thank you to the soldiers and your loved ones for keeping our nation safe.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF
LARRY SCANLON

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Larry Scanlon, who was

taken from us tragically on February 27th, 2015, after over 40 years of dedicated service to our nation's hardworking families.

Mr. Scanlon served as the longtime Political Director for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). In this role, he fought to raise the minimum wage, protect Social Security, and add a voice for middle class families in our government and national discussion.

Larry recognized that our country's success is tied to the economic health of the middle class. In this vein, he sought to make this country greater by fighting to give families the fair shot that they deserve at the American dream.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for Larry's contributions as a fighter for the middle class, and my thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

HONORING THE JERICHO PROJECT FOR ITS RECEIPT OF THE 2015 INNOVATION IN JUSTICE AWARD

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Jericho Project for its receipt of the 2015 Innovations in Justice Award for approaching criminal justice challenges in a new and effective way. The Innovations in Justice Award recipients were selected by the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (APA) in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the Center for Court Innovation.

The Jericho Project was launched more than a decade ago by the Shelby County Public Defender's Office to better serve people living with serious mental illnesses and substance abuse disorders who have been cycling through the criminal justice system. The main architect, Shelby County Chief Public Defender Stephen Bush, my constituent, developed the initiative while working as an Assistant Public Defender, a position he held for almost 20 years before being appointed as Shelby County's 10th Public Defender in 2010.

Mr. Bush has overseen the development of community linkage plans that are presented to courts in support of community-based, alternative forms of sentencing. Recovery Support Specialists on the team support clients for four months after they are released from prison and help them transition to life back in the community. I am proud to say that nearly 60 percent of those participating in the Jericho Project have successfully completed their recovery plans and have avoided further cycling through the criminal justice system.

What began as a grant-funded experiment has matured into a permanent part of Shelby County's efforts to address the needs of some of its most vulnerable citizens. The Jericho Project's success has made it a national model for how criminal justice systems can better serve those struggling to survive with serious mental illnesses.

The Jericho Project has been changing lives for more than a decade, and this recognition is well deserved. I ask the House to join me in congratulating the Jericho Project for receiving the 2015 Innovations in Justice Award.

AUTHORIZING SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO RECOUP BONUSES AND AWARDS

SPEECH OF

HON. JODY B. HICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 2, 2015

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 280, legislation authorizing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to recoup bonuses and awards paid to employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs. I would like to commend Chairman MILLER for his continued leadership on this issue. I also want to express my gratitude to the House Veterans Affairs Committee for their hard work on this bill, and for its work last year on the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014.

Last year, reports by the VA Office of Inspector General revealed widespread mismanagement, inadequate standards of care, and unnecessary delays for appointments in VA facilities across the country, including facilities in both Atlanta and Augusta, Georgia where veterans in my home district seek care. The appalling lack of responsible oversight at certain facilities led to the placement of veterans on secret waiting lists created to manipulate data in order to cover up long wait times. This was an inexcusable practice that prevented our nation's heroes from receiving the timely care that they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, those responsible for overseeing those VA facilities were clearly failing at their jobs. Yet, in Fiscal Year 2013, VA issued over \$380,000 in bonuses to employees at hospitals under investigation by the VA Inspector General for falsifying records. This is unacceptable. Under no circumstances should VA employees receive a 'performance award' for purposefully fostering an environment of negligence. H.R. 280 provides the authority to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to order VA employees to pay back their bonuses so that no employee will remain rewarded for their misconduct.

We owe our veterans a great debt of gratitude, and one small way of repaying that debt is to ensure that our veterans receive the best possible care. This commonsense legislation will bring much-needed accountability to the VA system and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 280.

COMMENDING LOCAL BROADCASTERS

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, every day, our nation's broadcasters serve communities across the country by providing the news and entertainment we rely on to get through our day. Whether it is an update on what is happening in the world, educational programming, or a review of the movies opening that weekend, most Americans turn to broadcasters for news on issues big and small.

This is especially true for local broadcasters. These broadcasters provide the public with the

news that is most important, and most useful for them, because it is the news from their own communities. This is true in Sacramento and across the nation. Our broadcasters play an integral role in Sacramentans day-to-day lives, informing all of us about everything from local traffic to an in-depth look at local political issues.

Local broadcasters play a particularly important role in times of an emergency. In Sacramento, we continue to experience drought-like weather conditions, as well as heavy rains that bring with them the threat of flooding. Unfortunately, the entire state of California is susceptible to a number of natural disasters, including earthquakes, wildfires, and—of course—flooding. It is essential that residents have access to local emergency broadcasts, so that they have the public safety information they need when a disaster strikes.

And the role of broadcasters goes beyond disseminating information to the public. They have also played an important part in growing and investing in our nation's airwaves. The spectrum sharing agreement that the broadcasters entered into with the Department of Defense helped solidify the Federal Communications Commission's recent record breaking spectrum auction of the AWS-3 band. This spectrum auction generated nearly \$45 billion in revenue, enough to fully fund FirstNet, the nationwide interoperability network for America's first responders and public safety officials.

Broadcasters play an important role in our country. I want to applaud the work of broadcasters, particularly those in Sacramento, for working diligently to cover and provide local news programming to our communities, and for being strong community partners.

RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize International Women's Day. This day is celebrated across the world in different ways to honor the role of women throughout history. Here in the United States, we celebrate this day during Women's History Month. Since 1913, March 8 has been marked as a day to honor the economic, political, and social achievements of women.

International Women's Day serves as a reminder of the steps we have made towards equality in the United States and internationally, and honors the women who worked to make these steps possible. As a Member of Congress from the only state in the country to have had an all-female delegation, I am proud of how far our country has come towards equality for women. But we cannot recognize these accomplishments without also mentioning the work that still needs to be done.

While we have come so far, women still face political and economic obstacles. Women are still not equally represented in small business ownership or in the technology sector. I have been working to build support and encouragement for more women small business leaders and women in technology. A few weeks ago, I had the privilege to congratulate

eighteen female high school students on completing the BAE Systems Women in Technology Program, which encourages young women to consider pursuing careers in technology. As a country we need more programs like this to encourage our young women to pursue their interests and become future leaders, and to discourage them from thinking that certain careers are strictly for men.

In New Hampshire, women make up half of the state's population and about a quarter of our businesses are owned by women. It is clear that the success of women in business is vitally important to New Hampshire's future, and the same can be said for the rest of our country. On International Women's Day, I ask my colleagues to recognize not just the progress we have made, but also how much work remains to be done. As a country we must promote the success of women.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in recognizing International Women's Day and the women who are continuing the fight to ensure there is equal opportunity for women in the present and future.

THE FIRST AND FINEST

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Port of Houston Authority for successfully completing its certification process for International Organization for Standardization 14001 Environmental Management Systems. This tri-annual process certifies the ports' Central Maintenance facility and the Bayport and Barbours Cut container terminals.

International Organization for Standardization 14001 certification is one of the hardest to achieve in the environmental industry. Of the 360 seaports in the United States, only 10 are certified. This also marks the fifth consecutive successful certification for the Port of Houston Authority. In 2002, it became the first port in the United States to achieve ISO 14001 status.

On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to the Port of Houston Authority for receiving this critical certification. The Port of Houston is an important asset for Houston, Texas and the nation. Best wishes on your continued success.

WELCOMING THE KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER TO WASHINGTON

HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome Mr. Chung Ui-Hwa, Speaker of the Korean National Assembly, to Washington. Speaker Chung—a neurosurgeon by training—is a distinguished member of the National Assembly, having served five consecutive terms since 1996. Last year, in his capacity as President of the Korea-U.S. Inter-Parliamentary Council, he led a delegation and paid a

visit to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, where I hosted a legislative exchange. I'm honored to welcome him back to Washington and in his new capacity as Speaker.

For over 60 years, the U.S.-South Korea relationship has been a linchpin of peace and security in the Asia-Pacific region. In 2013, I welcomed President Park Geun-hye, the Republic of Korea's first female president, to Southern California where she addressed the Korean-American community to discuss the 60th anniversary of the U.S.-South Korean alliance. As a former Chairman of the U.S.-Republic of Korea Inter-Parliamentary Exchange, I have been proud to help enhance the alliance, including by upgrading Korea's Foreign Military Sales status to NATO+4, passing the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement and securing an extension of the U.S.-Korea Civilian Nuclear Energy Agreement.

As North Korea continues to threaten the United States and our close allies with its nuclear, missile, and now cyber capabilities, I introduced legislation, together with Ranking Member ELIOT ENGEL, to step up the targeting of those financial institutions in Asia and beyond that are supporting this brutal and dangerous regime. By shutting down North Korea's illicit activities, we deprive the Kim regime of the money it needs to pay the generals and to conduct nuclear weapons research. I appreciate that humanitarian groups around the world are strongly supporting this bipartisan legislation.

The United States and the Republic of Korea are strengthening their combined defense posture on the Korean Peninsula. Together, we are working toward a shared goal of a Korean Peninsula that is free of nuclear weapons and peacefully reunited on the basis of democratic and market principles and as articulated in President Park's Dresden address last year.

Mr. Speaker, I am again pleased to welcome my friend, Speaker Chung Ui-Hwa, to Washington and to the Congress. We are at critical juncture in the U.S.-Korea alliance, but our relationship has never been better. I look forward to working with Speaker Chung on the issues of mutual concern. I further urge my colleagues to do the same and to offer their own expressions of best wishes and support.

RECOGNIZING THE 23RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this week marks the 23rd anniversary of a terrible event in the history of Azerbaijan: the massacre of hundreds of people in the town of Khojaly in what was the largest killing of ethnic Azerbaijani civilians in the course of the Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict. Khojaly, which is located in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, was once home to 7,000 people. That was before Armenian armed forces descended on the town on February 26, 1992, killing over 600 people—including 106 women and 83 children. Hundreds more became disabled due to their injuries. More than one hundred children lost one of their parents, and 25 children lost

both parents. At least 8 families were completely wiped out.

More than two decades after a ceasefire went into effect, more than 20 percent of Azerbaijan's territory, including Nagorno-Karabakh and seven surrounding districts, remains occupied and more than 1 million Azerbaijanis remain displaced from their homes. Ongoing violence along the line of contact surrounding occupied Azerbaijani territory reinforces the urgency of robust American participation in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) Minsk Group as it works towards a peaceful resolution of the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict.

Azerbaijan is the only country that borders both Russia and Iran, and yet Azerbaijan has been a strong partner of the United States and its allies in security and energy matters. This has included: enforcing sanctions against Iran; providing troops that served shoulder-to-shoulder with U.S. forces in Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan; allowing transit for 40 percent of all non-lethal equipment used by NATO forces in Afghanistan; construction of the Southern Gas Corridor from the Caspian Sea to Italy that will provide Europe with an alternative source to Russian energy; and supplying 40 percent of Israel's oil.

I ask my colleagues to join me and our Azerbaijani friends in commemorating the devastation of Khojaly twenty-three years ago. As Azerbaijanis around the world recall this massacre and mourn the loss of loved ones, let us remember our support of peaceful efforts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and reforms that promote stability throughout the Southern Caucasus region.

HONORING BMO HARRIS BANK

HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce in congratulating BMO Harris Bank as it is honored at the 39th Annual Salute to Accomplishment Dinner.

For over a century, BMO Harris Bank has invested in Joliet, where it currently has five branches employing 61 people. Partnering with community organizations and local governments, BMO Harris Bank has worked on a number of initiatives to improve the quality of life throughout the community including investing in health care research and community service projects.

Additionally, many BMO Harris Bank employees serve on boards and committees, and are members of various local non-profit organizations, including the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Joliet, the Greater Joliet Area YMCA, the Will County Council on Economic Development, and the Joliet Park District.

Again, I would like to congratulate BMO Harris Bank and thank its employees for being a driving force of change in our community.

GOD, FAMILY & COUNTRY: BOB
WILKINSON

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, God, family and country. Those three words are a life motto for one of my constituents, Robert "Bob" Lee Wilkinson. Bob is a God-fearing father, grandfather and veteran, who will be celebrating his 80th Birthday this March.

After graduating from Shawnee High School in Shawnee, Oklahoma in 1954, Bob joined the US Army. He was just 19 years old. His love of country drove him to the armed forces.

For three years Bob served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps where he was stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. He became a Specialist 2nd Class with top security clearance.

Upon receiving an Honorable Discharge, utilizing the GI Bill, Bob attended Oklahoma Baptist University. He graduated with a degree in business administration. He embarked on a successful 38 year career in Human Resources as a Human Resources Executive. Bob met and married his wife, DeLora, shortly after returning to Shawnee from the Army.

Bob began his HR career while still in college, working part time at Oklahoma Gas and Electric. After graduation, he became the HR manager for Wonder Bread and Hostess Cakes in Oklahoma City. Bob was recruited to Dallas to join a startup company, Texas Instruments. At Texas Instruments, he became World Wide HR Director, which transferred him all to different cities all over the Lone Star State. One of these cities being Houston, where Bob lives today.

After 19 years with Texas Instruments, Bob went to work for Compaq Computer, serving as their HR Director for 17 years. From there he went with Drake, Beam Morin, and a Human Recourse Outsourcing Firm. Bob's contribution to HR was quite the journey and it thankfully led him to the Promised Land, Texas, and we are so glad it did. Texas and Oklahoma are grateful for Bob's passion in HR and his willingness to help others.

Bob and DeLora spend their free time traveling to the plains of Montana to visit family. They have two daughters and three grandchildren. You can find them involved in the community and political activities.

2015 will be quite the year for Bob Wilkinson. He celebrates his 80th Birthday on March 13 and this coming May, Bob and DeLora will celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary. Congrats to a life and marriage well spent. It is obvious that God, family and country really have been the driving forces in your life, Bob.

I am proud to have you as one of my many neighbors in Houston. I thank you for your service to our great country. I join not only your friends and family, but the entire community when I say, Happy Birthday Bob!

And that's just the way it is.

INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE SENATE SHOULD RATIFY THE CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN (CEDAW)

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the sense of the House of Representatives that the Senate should ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). I am proud to be joined in this effort by my friend and colleague Congresswoman JAN SCHAKOWSKY.

This year we also recognize the 20th Anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, where the United States along with over 189 governments, adopted the "Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action." Since 1995, those commitments have ushered in enormous improvements in the lives of women across the world. It is in the spirit of this inspirational anniversary that we urge the United States to ratify the most comprehensive international agreement on women's rights, CEDAW.

CEDAW is a landmark international agreement that calls on governments to take appropriate measures to end discrimination against women in all areas of life. The Convention seeks to develop women's equality in legal status, human rights, political participation, employment, education and healthcare, while committing countries to change or eradicate discriminatory laws, customs, and practices.

Despite 187 countries ratifying CEDAW, the United States is the only industrialized country in the world that has not ratified the treaty, even though its fundamental principles of equality and nondiscrimination are paramount to the ideals of our nation. Other nations that have not ratified CEDAW include Somalia and Iran.

Most importantly, CEDAW is not self-executing, meaning that any legislation the United States might adopt to comply with the treaty would have to go through the normal Congressional process.

Ratification of CEDAW would continue our nation's proud bipartisan tradition of promoting and protecting human rights. The Senate's ratification of CEDAW would strengthen our standing as a global leader for the rights of women and girls. As we recognize International Women's Day next week, I hope my colleagues will cosponsor this important resolution that will benefit women around the world.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO GPO

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on March 4, 1861, the Government Printing Office (GPO), as it was then known, opened

its doors and began fulfilling an essential mission for the American people. On March 4, 2015, 154 years later, the newly renamed Government Publishing Office continues to perform that mission: producing and disseminating the official documents of this Congress and the executive and judicial branches to keep America informed. This is not merely my opinion as a proud supporter of the GPO and its talented workforce, but also the conclusion of a 2013 report of the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) requested by Congress.

As I noted in the House Administration Committee's activities report for 2014 (H. Rept. 113-721), I was pleased that Congress honored the request of Public Printer Davita Vance-Cooks, first made to the Committee in 2013, for statutory redesignation of GPO as the Government Publishing Office. This long-overdue change rightly proclaims to the American people how Congress and the President view the agency.

The proud men and women of GPO do not fulfill their mission solely by applying ink to paper. For decades GPO's employees have been in the vanguard of the Government's shift toward electronic publishing. The agency's former name, focused on the technological limits available at its birth, no longer reflected the breadth of its abilities and importance. GPO's work publishing and distributing information in multiple formats assures Americans perpetual access to the documents of our democracy. This change gives GPO and its employees the recognition they have earned.

During 2014 GPO has continued making significant strides under the stewardship of Ms. Vance-Cooks, who has now become the first Director of the Government Publishing Office. Evidence of the Director's strong management and sound judgment abounds there.

For example, the Partnership for Public Service listed GPO as one of the Best Places to Work and among the top 10 most innovative mid-sized federal agencies. The Partnership compiled its list based on the results of the OPM Federal Viewpoint Survey for 2013. Along a similar vein, a survey of over 500 customer agencies found 90% are generally satisfied with the goods and services GPO provides.

GPO's improved electronic gateway to the growing expanse of Government information, the Federal Digital System, or "FDsys", has recorded its one-billionth document retrieval. FDsys users can now browse among over one million titles as routine as daily editions of the Federal Register and as historic as President Nixon's Watergate grand-jury testimony. GPO is already taking steps to create the next generation FDsys with improved search and retrieval capabilities. GPO is also collaborating with the Clerk of the House, the Secretary of the Senate, the Library of Congress and others to make legislative data available to users in bulk form.

Although the Director and her management team have much to be proud of, challenges remain. The Director has embraced the NAPA report, especially its recommendation that GPO increase revenues through lease of surplus space. GPO has redoubled efforts to attract office tenants, including Legislative agencies for which proximity to the Congress offers a premium. With the support of the Joint Committee on Printing, GPO solicited the private

sector's input with a Request for Information on how to make better use of several acres of land now devoted to parking. The Director successfully completed a new round of wage agreements with GPO's employee unions, prudently setting future wage increases at the rate proposed by the President and Congress for all other federal civil-service employees. In addition, a successful employee buy-out conducted last year will improve the agency's financial condition. I am greatly encouraged by the Director's eagerness to work constructively with her earnest and talented Inspector General, Michael Raponi, and to incorporate his valuable recommendations into her strategic planning.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join in congratulating the Government Publishing Office on the agency's 154th birthday. I thank Director Vance-Cooks and her dedicated workforce for their extraordinary service to this country and wish them well in the years ahead.

60TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEXAGON

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 60th anniversary of Hexagon, the only original musical satirical comedy revue in the nation's capital. With its multiple honors, Hexagon continues to serve the District of Columbia, both with entertainment and service by donating the proceeds of each show to a different charity in the District each year.

Hexagon was founded in 1955 by a group of young Washingtonians seeking a way to have "pure fun and nonsense." The group started out writing songs and parodies for the show "Meet the Beep," which ran for five performances at the Holton-Arms School in the spring of 1956. The comedy troupe started earning a profit and earned \$3,500, which they donated to local charities. Even though the group was not founded as a charitable organization, it has donated \$3.5 million to more than 40 organizations since its inception. Due to a lack of funds in 2008, Hexagon, unfortunately, had to move out of the District into a venue nearby in Montgomery County, Maryland, but I am proud to say that after seven years, Hexagon is back in the District, and will be performing at Wilson High School in Tenleytown.

Hexagon has been honored with a number of distinguished awards, including the Presidential Medal of "Distinguished Service" from President Ronald Reagan in 1987. In 1992, Hexagon was given the honor of becoming Washingtonian of the Year for its contributions to the community and area charities. Hexagon was one of the first organizations to be recognized with this award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the 60th anniversary of Hexagon, and in wishing the group success in continuing its proud legacy in the nation's capital.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LT.
COLONEL GERALD K. CARMAN

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to take this moment to celebrate the life, and note the passing of Lt. Colonel Gerald K. Carman of the United States Air Force.

Lt. Colonel Carman passed away surrounded by his family in Duluth, Georgia on August 7, 2014 at the age of 51. Lt. Colonel Carman is survived by his wife of 25 years, Dawn Murto Carman and his two sons: Bradley and Alexander.

Lt. Colonel Carman is a fellow graduate from Bates Creek High School in Lexington, Kentucky. He earned his Bachelor's from the University of Kentucky and his Master's degree from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Soon after graduating, Lt. Colonel Carman joined the military and was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force. He later became a member of 962d Airborne Air Control Squadron (AACS) based at Elmendorf Air Force Base, Anchorage, Alaska as an Instructor Pilot flying the E-3 Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACS) aircraft.

Lt. Colonel Carman then joined the 168th Air Refueling Wing based in Eielson AFB, Fairbanks, Alaska as an Instructor Pilot flying the KC-135 Stratotanker with the Alaska Air National Guard. He served a total of 26 years as an officer with our nation's Armed Services.

Lt. Colonel Carman's passion for flying and love for aviation continued well past his Air Force career. He was a successful commercial pilot for two of our nation's major airlines: Northwest and Delta.

We grieve the loss of this great American, but we also celebrate and honor his life and his service. Lt. Colonel Carman embodied the best of America's ideals, values, and work ethic. He also personified what it meant to be free by pursuing his dreams and teaching others the art and love of American aviation.

Because of Lt. Colonel Carman's service to our nation, American freedoms are protected for future generations. He was truly an outstanding American and an inspiration to us all.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF RICHARD MILLER

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Miller of Cheshire, Connecticut.

On February 26, 2015, Mr. Miller received the Special Lifetime Achievement Award from the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce.

He is 102 years old, and he has literally devoted a lifetime to the Cheshire community.

As a young man, Mr. Miller began his service in World War II. After four years in the Army, he was discharged with the rank of major.

When he returned to Cheshire, Mr. Miller's service did not cease. He served on various municipal boards including the Cheshire

School Board, the Police Commission, the Senior Center Board of Directors, and the Beautification Commission.

Mr. Miller also volunteered with numerous civic organizations such as the Rotary Club where he was a member for almost 70 years. He established the Cheshire Food Drive, and raised funds for countless charitable organizations.

He also headed the town commission that designed, funded, and constructed a Veterans Memorial Plaza in front of Cheshire's Town Hall.

For all of these contributions and more, Mr. Miller will receive the Special Lifetime Achievement Award at the Cheshire Chamber's annual awards dinner. I wish to offer my congratulations to him for this impressive achievement and my thanks for all he has done for my hometown of Cheshire.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 109, I was absent attending Auditor Tom Schweich's funeral in the State of Missouri. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

KAYCE WELCH

HON. JOHN RATCLIFFE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. RATCLIFFE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young student from my district who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Kayce Welch of Texarkana has just been named one of the top honorees in Texas by the 2015 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state and the District of Columbia.

Ms. Kayce Welch is being recognized for creating the "One of a Kind" project to help raise funds and awareness of juvenile diabetes, the disease she was diagnosed with at age 11, and so far raised \$3,000 through a charity walk to support a summer camp for children with diabetes. Ms. Welch is currently planning a "One of a Kind Gala for Diabetes," to be held in the spring of 2015, which she hopes will raise at least \$30,000 to help fund research into a cure.

Given the challenges we face today, it is vital that we encourage and support the kind of selfless contributions that these young citizens have made. Youth volunteers like Ms. Welch are inspiring examples to all of us, and are among our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by Prudential Financial in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued, and to inspire other

young people to follow their example. Over the past 20 years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, and has honored more than 100,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level.

Ms. Welch should be extremely proud to have been singled out from the thousands of dedicated volunteers who participated in this year's program. I heartily applaud Ms. Welch for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future. Congratulations.

IN RECOGNITION OF GLORIA
BLANDINA FOR A LIFETIME OF
SERVICE TO OTHERS

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Gloria Blandina. Ms. Blandina is to receive the 2014 Joseph Saporito, Sr. Lifetime of Service Award, presented by the Greater Pittston Sunday Dispatch for her lifelong dedication to the development of young children.

Born and raised in Pittston, Pennsylvania, she received a degree in early childhood education from West Virginia University in 1971. Ms. Blandina went on to receive her Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from Marywood University in Scranton. She spent several years working at a day care center and teaching early childhood education at Penn State University before her appointment to the Children's Trust Fund by Governor Tom Ridge in 1998. In addition to her numerous professional accomplishments, Ms. Blandina is an active member of her community. She volunteers with the Social Justice Committee to deliver food to individuals in need. She has served on the board of directors of Luzerne County Head Start, the Pittston YMCA, the Family Enhancement Center, and as the President of the St. Mary's Assumption Home School Association for the Education of Young Children.

Ms. Blandina is currently the director of the Pittston Care and Concern Free Health Clinic, which offers a range of medical services to individuals without health insurance. The clinic has served over 3,500 patients under Ms. Blandina's leadership. She, like the doctors, nurses, social workers, and others who keep the clinic running, volunteers her time to this worthy cause that has helped so many in northeastern Pennsylvania.

I congratulate Ms. Blandina on receiving the Joseph Saporito, Sr. Lifetime of Service Award, and I commend her for all the selfless work she has done for the Greater Pittston Area.

URGING THE PRESIDENT TO ENSURE "THE BORINQUENEERS" RECEIVE THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, on June 10, 2014, Congress awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to the 65th Infantry Regiment, an all-volunteer Puerto Rican unit known as "the Borinqueneers." Today, I rise to urge the President to expedite the designing and delivery of this medal, before more of these brave Borinqueneers pass away.

More than 100,000 brave Borinqueneers served honorably in World War I, World War II and the Korean War. Puerto Ricans have fought for the United States as far back as the American Revolution, and continue to do so honorably to this day. Thousands have given their lives defending our values of freedom, justice, and equality, despite enduring decades of segregation and second-class treatment.

The Borinqueneers have been recognized with 10 Distinguished Service Crosses, more than 250 Silver Stars, over 600 Bronze Stars, and nearly 3,000 Purple Hearts. However, it was not until last year that the first member of the Borinqueneers, Master Sergeant Juan E. Negron, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, following a congressionally ordered review of cases involving veterans deserving of recognition who had been overlooked due to prejudice.

Today, hundreds of Borinqueneers have made Central Florida their home. On March 7, I will host an event to honor their legacy, and thank them for their service.

It is my goal and my honor, as their representative, to ensure that they receive this long overdue recognition. Puerto Rican veterans should not have to wait any longer to receive the equal treatment they deserve. Today I ask the President to ensure that the Borinqueneers receive their Congressional Gold Medal as soon as possible.

CONGRATULATING CATHERINE
ZINN ON RECEIVING WOMAN OF
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Catherine Zinn, who tomorrow will be honored by Legal Momentum as a Woman of Achievement at its 10th Annual Women of Achievement Awards Dinner.

Born in Berkeley, California, Catherine graduated from Hamilton College with a bachelor of arts degree in economics and public policy. She also was a terrific athlete there, receiving varsity letters in three sports. Since then she has established herself as a skilled business leader.

For many years she has worked in client development and relations at DLA Piper, the world's largest law firm. In her role as Senior

National Relationships Executive, she has had great success in bringing in new clients and ensuring current clients remain satisfied with the firm. Before DLA Piper, Catherine worked as National Director of Business Development and National Director of Class Action Settlement at JAMS, which provides arbitration and mediation services.

Catherine has given back to her community as well, helping many organizations in the San Francisco Bay Area. For example, she serves on the boards of Bay Area Cancer Connections, helping women with ovarian and breast cancer, and Tomorrow Youth Repertory, which provides youth theater education.

Catherine also looks for ways to support women in business. She gives of herself to empower women and help them succeed.

In fact, she participated in an event I held last year, Women's Business Empowerment Day, which was organized to help women succeed in the workforce. She gave insightful and tangible advice to attendees about how to negotiate for higher wages and career advancement. I want to thank her for her contributions.

Catherine is well deserving of her recognition from Legal Momentum. I want to offer her my most heartfelt congratulations.

INTRODUCTION OF THE
STRENGTHENING FISHING COMMUNITIES AND INCREASING
FLEXIBILITY IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act. The bill would amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act)—the premier law governing commercial and recreational fishing in U.S. federal waters. The Magnuson-Stevens Act was first enacted in 1976 and was last reauthorized in 2006.

I worked on the 2006 reauthorization with my friend and Senator, Ted Stevens. Ted Stevens was a champion for Alaska and the law bears his name as recognition of his dedication to supporting and protecting Alaska fishermen and the importance of fishery resources to coastal communities. I will miss working with my friend during this next reauthorization, but will remember him fondly as the legislation moves through Congress.

Over the last two Congresses, I worked with the former Chair of the Committee on Natural Resources, Doc Hastings, to develop the text of the bill. The Committee on Natural Resources held 10 hearings, receiving comments and suggestions from over 100 witnesses representing Members of Congress, the administration, state governments, regional fishery management councils, marine fisheries commissions, commercial and recreational (including for-hire charter) fishing groups, processors, academics, and environmental groups. Due to this in-depth review of the Act and the need to keep the process going forward to reform the law, I am introducing the bill the Committee reported to the House floor in the 113th Congress.

The bill we developed in the 113th Congress would not have been possible without the knowledge and dedicated work of Mr. David Whaley, who retired from the Committee after twenty years of working on fisheries issues. I would like to acknowledge and thank Dave for his hard work and dedication over the years. I hired Dave in 1994 as my fisheries staffer for the Committee on Resources and he continued to handle Alaskan, national and international fishery issues, as well as marine mammal and ocean issues over his career on the Committee. Dave has been an invaluable resource to me and other members of the Committee during his twenty years of service on the Committee and we will miss his expertise and experience as we move this bill forward.

The Magnuson-Stevens Act allows for regional management of fisheries. The law gives guidance through its National Standards and specifies the process through which the Councils develop their fishery management plans. While the Secretary of Commerce has final approval of fishery management plans, the Magnuson-Stevens Act provides for a regional approach where the Councils, hearing from its local constituency groups, can develop fishery management plans that best suit their fisheries and fishermen. This is critical for the protection of coastal economies and for allowing the stakeholders to be a part of the management of their fisheries.

The Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act would update the Magnuson-Stevens Act to implement common sense reforms. The 2006 amendments were said to apply the 'Alaska Model' of fisheries management to other regions of the country. The premise of this reform was good. The 'Alaska Model' worked in Alaska due to stock assessments providing up-to-date fisheries data to allow the North Pacific Fishery Management Council to use adaptive management, providing optimal use of fishery resources to fishermen. The problem with trying to implement the 'Alaska Model' in other regions was that these regions did not have adequate science—due to infrequent or out dated stock assessments—to support that type of management system. Instead of providing optimal use of the resource for fishermen, the implementation of the 'Alaska Model' resulted in fisheries being restricted in regions that were considered 'data poor' due to multiple levels of precautionary measures being applied because of inadequate scientific data.

I believe the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act will allow for increased fisheries management flexibility and transparency, provide for improved data collection, create jobs, and—what I believe is very important—create predictability and certainty for the coastal communities that depend on stable fishing activities.

The Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act would reauthorize and strengthen the Magnuson-Stevens Act to ensure a proper balance between the biological needs of fish stocks and the economic needs of fishermen and coastal communities. The bill would make a number of improvements to the Act: provide flexibility for fishery managers when rebuilding depleted fisheries; provide flexibility for fishery managers when setting annual catch levels;

provide more transparency for fishermen and others in both science and management; provide a schedule for obtaining better fishery dependent and fishery independent data especially for data poor fisheries; provide greater protection for confidential information submitted to regulatory agencies; encourage and promote cooperative research projects where scientists work with fishermen to develop sound scientific information; allow fishery managers to take the economic impact of their decisions into account when setting harvest levels; allow fishery managers to take environmental conditions into account when establishing harvest levels; allow fishermen in regions where catch share programs have been controversial to have a vote to determine whether a new catch share program will be implemented and to be provided better information when considering such a program; require NOAA to provide better accountability on how fees are collected and used; clarify the role of the Magnuson-Stevens Act in relationship to other federal statutes; and authorize appropriations for an additional five fiscal years at current authorized funding levels.

As I've learned over the years as a legislator, laws are not written in stone. Congress's job is to review them, listen to constituents and modify the laws as needed. Laws that are stagnant do not help anyone. Times change and laws need to reflect new information and the needs of Americans.

Constituency groups were influential in developing the 2006 amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Key aspects of the 2006 amendments were the goal to end overfishing through the requirement that annual catch limits not exceed scientific recommendations and accountability measures were instituted. Changes in the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act were also developed by listening to constituency groups at committee hearings, fishery managers at fishery council meetings and at national conferences, and reviewing recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences. Even the National Marine Fisheries Service recognizes the need for reforms and has proposed revisions to its advisory guidelines for National Standards 1, 3 and 7 of the Magnuson-Stevens Act. These proposed revisions recommend changes that would allow for increased flexibility in rebuilding programs, clarify guidance on which stocks require conservation and management and defines depleted stocks, among other items. These changes are similar to changes included in the bill I am introducing today.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the new Chair of the Committee on Natural Resources, ROB BISHOP, as a cosponsor of this legislation. I look forward to working with him as the Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act moves through Committee and the House. I also am pleased to have Representatives BRADLEY BYRNE and AMATA COLEMAN RADEWAGEN as original cosponsors on the bill. I look forward to working with any Member of the House that is interested in reauthorizing the Magnuson-Stevens Act. This is an important piece of legislation and I urge Members to support its movement through the House of Representatives and 114th Congress.

REINTRODUCING THE SERVICES FOR ENDING LONG-TERM HOMELESSNESS ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Services for Ending Long-Term Homelessness Act. Homelessness continues to be a troubling issue facing our nation. In 2014, studies show that anywhere from 700,000 to 2 million children, families, and veterans found themselves homeless.

Nationally, on any given night, there are approximately 84,291 people who are experiencing chronic homelessness. Chronically homeless people often live in shelters or on the streets for years at a time, experience repeated episodes of homelessness without achieving housing stability, or cycle between homelessness, jails, mental health facilities, and hospitals. These individuals are all too often confronted with, or a combination of, mental illness, substance addiction, life-threatening illness or other serious health problems that make it impossible to maintain or access shelter. Fortunately, this bill presents us with the opportunity to address this national issue by ending long-term homelessness in America.

Studies have demonstrated that supportive services are a practical and a guaranteed investment of public and private resources to end long-term homelessness. These programs result in a 39% reduction in total cost of services from pre- to post-supportive housing with an overall savings of \$854,477. Furthermore, residents were significantly less likely to return to hospitals, nursing homes or prisons and there was an overall positive shift in mental and physical well-being.

The Services for Ending Long-Term Homelessness Act does three key things:

It requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS), acting through the Administrator of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to design a national strategy for providing services in supportive housing that will assist in ending chronic homelessness and to implement programs that address chronic homelessness.

It calls for the HHS Secretary to make multi-year, renewable grants based on performance criteria, including the outcome of ending long-term homelessness matching the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants to eligible entities in order to provide services promoting recovery and self-sufficiency. Furthermore, it addresses barriers to housing stability for chronically homeless individuals and families in, or who are scheduled to become residents of, permanent supportive housing. This will also apply to other individuals and families who have voluntarily chosen to seek other housing opportunities after a period of tenancy in supportive housing.

It directs the HHS Secretary to require grantees to report data regarding the performance outcomes of projects carried out under this Act, which shall include measuring and reporting specific performance outcomes related to the long-term goals of: (1) increasing stability within the community for individuals and families who have been chronically homeless; and (2) decreasing recurrence of periods of homelessness.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that we take a stand to put an end to long-term homelessness in America. I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this critically important bill, so that we can end homelessness across this nation, because no person deserves to live without a home or to be on the streets.

OUTSTANDING CIVIC LEADERSHIP

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sgt. Matt Levan of the Sugar Land Police Department for being named the 2014 Officer of the Year. This award reflects his exceptional contributions to our community and his outstanding civic leadership.

Sgt. Levan began his service for the Sugar Land Police Department 19 years ago and continues to display leadership and commitment to his job. As a member of the Houston Metro Internet Crimes against Children Task Force, he has taken a special interest in the welfare of children in Sugar Land. Always going a step further, he makes a practice of sharing his experience and insights to empower the public to better defend themselves from criminal threats. Thanks to officers like Sgt. Levan, residents of Sugar Land can sleep better at night knowing that our police officers are dedicated to serving our community and keeping us safe.

I commend Sgt. Levan for his outstanding leadership and service to our community at the Sugar Land Police Department. On behalf of the residents of the Twenty-Second Congressional District of Texas, congratulations again to Sgt. Matt Levan on being named the 2014 Officer of the Year.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CORPORAL TYLER SCOTT BREWER

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life, and note the passing of Tyler Scott Brewer of Stanton, Kentucky, whom passed away on January 24, 2015 at the young age of 23.

According to his friends and family, Tyler lived a life of adventure, compassion, servitude and the natural ability to touch lives. His love for his family, friends, music, and his Kentucky home was sincere and eternal. Tyler was an absolute joy to be around, a true free spirit, and had a network of friends that stretched from coast to coast.

As a child, Tyler loved playing outside. He was especially fond of the days spent on Cave Run Lake with his family. He attended Bowen Elementary School and was praised by his teachers for being an excellent student and an extremely caring person; even at an early age he was an advocate for those who were different or less fortunate. It was in elementary school where Tyler was introduced to one of his passions, Powell County Pirate football.

Tyler started playing football in 5th grade and played all the way through his senior season of high school. He was a four-year starter on the varsity team while playing middle linebacker on defense and full back on offense. In addition to being an outstanding football player, he was also awarded the honor of Academic All State all four seasons of high school. Tyler graduated with honors from Powell County High School in 2010 and enrolled at The University of Kentucky (UK).

While at UK, Tyler decided to join the Marine Corps. He left for Paris Island, South Carolina in March 2011 to embark on the most rigorous training regimen required by any branch of the military; training that molds a recruit into a Marine. His proudest moment was his successful completion of the rite of passage known as The Crucible. Along with being a model Marine, Tyler earned the rank of Corporal in less than 3 and half years. Tyler served one tour in Afghanistan, as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, where he earned the Navy and Marine Corp Achievement Medal.

Tyler left the Marine Corps in September 2014 to return to life as a civilian. Upon returning to Kentucky, Tyler enrolled in the welding program at Maysville Community and Technical College. He was extremely excited about the school but unfortunately he would never fulfill his goal of completing the program.

Tragically, on January 24, 2015, the bright light known as Tyler Scott Brewer was taken in an automobile accident. Over 1,000 mourners visited Tyler. The outpouring of love from people all across the nation was historic for his small Powell County community and a testament to the amount of lives he touched and affected in such a short amount of time.

Tyler was buried with full military honors and laid to rest at the Donnie G. Randall Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Stanton, Kentucky.

Tyler Scott Brewer was a son, brother, grandson, great grandson, nephew, cousin, Marine, and a true friend to all. His kind and loving spirit will be missed, but his legacy will not be forgotten.

MCCOY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NAMED A 2014 BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate McCoy Elementary School in Carrollton, Texas, for earning the distinction of being named one of the nation's most successful schools through the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program.

In 1982, the Department of Education established the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program to recognize schools for their high or significantly improved achievement. The program's goal is to identify the methods of thriving American schools to inspire others to imitate their successful practices.

In October of 2014, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan named McCoy Elementary School as a 2014 Blue Ribbon School. Schools selected for national honors reflect high standards and accountability to their stu-

dents and community alike. McCoy Elementary School remains committed to enhancing the quality of learning for its students. The tireless work of the school's educators and families cannot go unnoticed, commensurate with the hard work of the students who helped earn this award.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating McCoy Elementary School on its accomplishment as a National Blue Ribbon School.

HONORING ALAMEDA COUNTY AS- SISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEY JOHN JAY ON RETIREMENT

HON. ERIC SWALWELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. SWALWELL of California. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor Alameda County Assistant District Attorney John Jay on his upcoming retirement.

John has devoted his career to achieving justice for the residents of Alameda County and to keeping them safe. Following law school he served as a law clerk in the Alameda County Assistant District Attorney's Office and then, in December 1979, was appointed to be a deputy district attorney.

Over his 35 year career, John has played a positive role in nearly every part of the District Attorney's Office. Early on he tackled some of the most serious felony cases in the county, proving to be an excellent trial attorney.

John first took on a management position in 1998 when he became head of the Alameda Branch. Later he became a preliminary examination team leader in the Wiley Manuel Branch and the Assistant in Charge of the Fremont Branch, a position he holds today.

John has been a terrific mentor to the many young prosecutors in the District Attorney's Office, including myself. He also taught outside the office as well, serving as a criminal law and evidence professor at Chabot College and Las Positas College. And, he worked with police officers to help them understand what a prosecutor looks for when presenting a case.

John has well earned his retirement. He looks forward to spending time with his wife Corrine and enjoying his interests in carpentry, travel and the outdoors.

I want to thank John for his years of dedicated service. I also want to wish him a very enjoyable retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JASON SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on roll call No. 108, I was absent attending Auditor Tom Schweich's funeral in the State of Missouri. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea".

CELEBRATING THE
CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARY KIGHT

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Kight of Waterbury, Connecticut.

Mary Kight, an extraordinary woman, exhibits remarkable strength, courage, and patriotism. Her son, Michael Aaron Kight served as a helicopter pilot in the U.S. Army and was killed in action on May 19, 1967 while trying to evacuate injured soldiers in South Vietnam.

Shortly after her son's death, Mrs. Kight joined the Gold Star Mothers and dedicated her time to helping families and communities remember her son and all those who sacrificed their lives for our country.

Mrs. Kight went on to serve as Connecticut Department Chair of the American Gold Star Mothers for many years. She was instrumental in acquiring the beautiful Gold Star Mothers Statue that is proudly displayed in Waterbury City Hall.

While Mrs. Kight is no longer the department chair of the Gold Star Mothers, she is still an active member of the organization. She is also involved in the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and Waterbury Veterans Memorial Committee. She proudly wears her white uniform at all of the local veterans' ceremonies to honor and remember her son.

This evening, as part of the Department of Defense's Vietnam War Commemoration program, the Daughters of the American Revolution will present Mrs. Kight with a certificate recognizing her for her service and sacrifice.

I congratulate Mrs. Kight on this honor, and thank her for all that she does for the City of Waterbury, State of Connecticut, and United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO JOE HOGAN

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize a long-time friend and a resident of my home town of Levittown, Joe Hogan. Joe was named to be the grand marshal of the 2015 Bucks County St. Patrick's Day Parade because of his lifetime of service to the veteran's community. I have known Joe for many years and over that time he has exemplified how a committed community servant should live his life. A combat wounded Marine, Joe has served as a post-commander for his local VFW, member of the Disabled American Veterans and presently serves as the president of the Guardians of the National Cemetery, an all-volunteer support organization for the Washington Crossing National Cemetery. Joe has also served as an adult leader for Boy Scout Troop 123 and has remained active with coaching youth sports including his grandson's baseball team for the last three decades. I am fortunate to call him my friend and I look forward to seeing many more years of his involvement in our community.

IN RECOGNITION OF BARBARA SCHIANDRA FOR HER EFFORTS IN PITTSSTON, PENNSYLVANIA ON BEHALF OF BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Barbara Schiandra who is to be named Person of the Year by the Greater Pittston Sunday Dispatch. In October 2014 Ms. Schiandra organized one of the biggest fundraisers in the history of Pittston, Pennsylvania. Over the course of four days, Ms. Schiandra raised both awareness of breast cancer's toll and the importance of its prevention and \$30,000 for breast cancer research—all during the first annual and very successful Paint Pittston Pink event.

It was Ms. Schiandra's own experience that led to this remarkable achievement. She was pregnant with her youngest son when she discovered her own cancer. At only 34 years old she was diagnosed with a highly aggressive type of cancer with a high recurrence rate. After she began chemotherapy, she learned that she qualified for a clinical trial of a vaccine at the University of Pennsylvania sponsored by the Pennies in Action Fund, the eventual beneficiary of her community work.

Initially, the plan for Paint Pittston Pink was to utilize breast cancer awareness flags to line Pittston's Main Street during the month of October. Paint Pittston Pink quickly grew into a much larger event, attracting hundreds of people and a host of local businesses. The ColorMePink 5K and Caped CURE-Sader Family Fun Walk drew over 500 participants to Downtown Pittston. At the end of the four days, Barbara and her team presented a check for \$30,000 to the University of Pennsylvania Pennies in Action Fund to support its cancer research. Greater Pittston, and all those affected by cancer, were highly moved by her efforts.

I congratulate Ms. Schiandra on being named Person of the Year by the Greater Pittston Sunday Dispatch, and I applaud both her inspirational personal courage and her heroic efforts to fight cancer. With efforts like Barbara's, we will one day fully beat this disease.

HONORING THE 11TH ANNUAL
SENEY VETERANS SNOWMOBILE
RIDE

HON. DAN BENISHEK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. BENISHEK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 11th annual Seney Veterans Snowmobile Ride, which will occur on Saturday, March 14, 2015 in Seney, Michigan.

I had the privilege of participating last year with over 300 fellow riders as we honored and remembered the sacrifices and service of all that have served our nation.

Founded by Don and Diane Reed, veterans and owners of the Fox River Motel and sponsored by the Seney Snowmobile Association,

the event has grown every year since it was first established building on their motto of "be a Vet, bring a Vet, thank a Vet."

Please join me in recognizing all the veterans and supporters participating in the Seney Veterans Snowmobile Ride. We must never forget our veterans and their contribution to the United States.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HUMAN
TRAFFICKING FRAUD ENFORCEMENT
ACT OF 2015

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce bipartisan legislation with my colleague Rep. TED POE.

In March of 1931 the infamous gangster, Al Capone, was indicted for tax fraud. Today the IRS Criminal Investigations division continues to play a vital role in proving criminal activity and fraud, and I believe they can play an even stronger role in cracking down on human trafficking and prostitution.

This bill is meant to enhance the Internal Revenue Service's ability to crack down on sex trafficking by authorizing \$4 million to establish an office within the IRS to prosecute sex traffickers for violations of tax laws. The office would focus on the willful failure of traffickers to file returns, supply information, or pay tax where the taxpayer is an "aggravated" non-filer. In addition, the office would coordinate closely with existing task forces focused on sex trafficking offenders in the Department of Justice.

The bill also amends the Internal Revenue Code to increase criminal monetary and other penalties for attempts to: evade or defeat tax, willful failure to file a tax return, supply information, or pay tax, aggravated failure to file tax returns, fraud and false statements, and underpayment or overpayment of tax due to fraud. This offense will carry a maximum sentence of 10 years and a maximum fine of \$50,000.00.

The Human Trafficking Fraud Enforcement Act of 2015 also establishes a new felony offense for an aggravated failure to file to include failure to file with respect to income or payments derived from activity which is criminal under Federal or State law. This will target conduct committed by those involved in the promotion of commercial sex acts—pimps and traffickers—and not conduct of exploited persons in prostitution.

Last, this bill directly benefits those that are victimized by the traffickers by revising current IRS Whistleblower provisions so that women and girls who choose to participate in the investigation will be eligible to participate in the whistleblower program and may ultimately be granted up to 15% of any fines levied against the trafficker.

While important strides have been made to address trafficking, we must still use every tool possible to take down the traffickers. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

CONGRATULATING LOUIS GRIESEMER, SPRINGFIELD UNDERGROUND PRESIDENT, ON RECEIVING JAMES CHRISTIE SAFETY AND HEALTH PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. BILLY LONG

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. LONG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Louis Griesemer, president of Springfield Underground, on receiving the 2014 James Christie Safety and Health Professional of the Year Award presented by the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association (NSSGA).

The James Christie Safety and Health Professional of the Year Award recognizes those that contribute generous efforts towards maintaining proficient health and safety standards at their workplace. The award was created in 1987 in recognition of James Christie, who challenged the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) to focus on the safety practices of workers and not just the facility.

In addition to his duties as president of Springfield Underground, Louis Griesemer has been an active member of the NSSGA. He served as the association's chairman of the board in 2007.

Louis Griesemer understands that in order for American business to succeed, we need employers to act responsibly in protecting workers from safety and health hazards. The fact that Louis has been certified by the MSHA as a safety instructor stands as just one illustration of his commitment to this important goal. Further, our nation is strengthened when business leaders like Louis go "the extra mile" to bolster understanding both of and by the regulator and the regulated community. His leadership on the MSHA-NSSGA Alliance for education and training has achieved substantial results in this effort.

I am honored to recognize Louis Griesemer, and I congratulate him on receiving the 2014 James Christie Safety and Health Professional of the Year Award.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$18,153,537,817,364.77. We've added \$7,526,660,768,451.69 to our debt in 6 years. This is over \$7.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

CONGRATULATING DR. JAMES CAPOLUPO

HON. PATRICK MEEHAN

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Dr. James Capolupo of Springfield, Pennsylvania for being named the Superintendent of the Year by the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators.

Dr. Capolupo began his career as a music teacher and band director before rising to serve as an administrator in the Springfield Township School District. His talents and dedication to his students led him to be named the district's superintendent in 2005. Under his leadership, the district has become a model for innovative and effective instruction. His reputation has spread beyond the district, with representatives from more than 120 other school districts having visited Springfield to learn more about Dr. Capolupo's methods.

Dr. Capolupo earned national recognition last year when he was named a finalist for National Superintendent of the Year by the National Association of School Superintendents. This distinction is awarded to five superintendents around the country who have created a "model of uncompromising dedication to literacy and academic achievement." So it is no surprise to learn of his recognition as Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year.

I wish to congratulate Dr. Capolupo and the entire staff at Springfield School District for their hard work on our children's behalf.

HORSE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today I introduced the Horse Transportation Safety Act with Rep. WHITFIELD, my esteemed colleague from Kentucky. I believe that the way we treat animals is a reflection of who we are as human beings so I have introduced this bill to halt the transport of horses in double-deck trailers, a practice that is dangerous for the animals and considered inhumane by many animal welfare advocates. Horses transported in these trailers often endure long journeys in cramped positions and suffer serious injuries as a result. Upon enactment, the Horse Transportation Safety Act would outlaw the transportation of horses in these two-tiered trailers. Violators of the law would be subject to civil penalties.

I encourage my colleagues to support this important legislation.

CONGRESSIONAL COMMENDATION FOR THE LIFE OF DR. LOIS DAVIS GIBSON

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the life of Dr. Lois Gibson. We

are all saddened by the loss of this gentle and loving spirit, Lois Gibson, wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, aunt, sister-in-law, educator, Delta Sigma Theta Soror, Director of Nursing Program/FCCJ, Dean of Health Services/FCCJ, loved one, friend and so much more. A very proud and spiritual lady who gave so much to so many at every level of her being. Dr. Gibson was warmly considered the "Proverbial Woman" as she would touch you in her special and endearing way. She gave us a sense of pride and accomplishment, and she inspired us to go beyond our potential through learning and sharing.

As a mother, she raised generations to be proud and use the past to make a better future. As an educator, she dared us to be more than ordinary, she encouraged and pushed us to be better than we even knew; and as a citizen of the world, she made us understand and appreciate our individual differences, and all that we hold in common. As a true believer, she simply made us believe by her example. Her standards were high, yet attainable; her truths were straightforward and without embellishment; her voice was strong with reason and reassurance; her directions were clear, simple and intended for keeping our feet on the right path; her love was great and powerful and shown brightly in her eyes and heart.

Though our hearts ache, our tears of pain are mixed with loving memories of her smile, her touch and that gleam in her eyes telling all who knew her, that she loved you and always will. And in her remembrance, we are drawn to the words of Paul, in the book of 2nd Timothy, "For I am now ready to be offered, the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept my faith". May the Lord bless and keep you now and forevermore and may the memory of my dear friend, Dr. Lois Davis Gibson remain with us for all times.

HONORING JOHN CORONA

HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate fellow educator John Corona, as he retires after 36 years of devoted public service.

Mr. Corona has been a valued leader in Riverside classrooms since 1979. Whether it was teaching courses, chairing the Martin Luther King High School Social Studies department, or serving as head coach of the Track and Field team, Mr. Corona has been an invaluable resource for students in our community.

For the past decade and a half, Mr. Corona's oral history project called King High School Remembers has connected hundreds of students with veterans to learn about history from those who wrote it. This program helps preserve the legacy of these heroes. Because of its impact, King High School Remembers has received widespread acclaim and numerous awards, and is recognized as an exemplary educational program.

I want to thank Mr. Corona for his devotion to his students, colleagues, and our community over the years, and wish him all the best as he begins this new chapter in his life.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE MARTIN KANE, THE WILKES-BARRE FRIENDLY SONS OF ST. PATRICK MAN OF THE YEAR FOR 2015

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Honorable Martin Kane, Magisterial District Judge in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Judge Kane has been named the 2015 Man of the Year by the Greater Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. He will receive this award at the Friendly Sons' annual banquet on March 13, 2015. Judge Kane has honorably served Luzerne County for 30 years.

Judge Kane is an Air Force veteran who served tours of duty in Vietnam and Thailand. He graduated from St. Mary's High School, Texas Christian University, and Wilson College, and is certified as a district judge. He has been married to his wife Kathryn for 40 years.

Elected in 1985, Judge Kane has presided over more than 300,000 cases in his career. Many of those cases were high-profile homicide and drug cases presented by the Pennsylvania Attorney General's office, Pennsylvania State Police, and the Wilkes-Barre Police Department.

Kane was appointed by Pennsylvania Chief Justices Ronald Castille and Steven Zappala to serve on the Legislative Committee, the Grievance and Bylaws Committee, and the Minor Rules Committee Intergovernmental Task Force of the Pennsylvania District Courts. Judge Kane is also special liaison to the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board and special liaison to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court for the District Judges of Pennsylvania. He previously served as the president of the District Judges Association of Pennsylvania.

Additionally, Judge Kane has served the Greater Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons of St. Patrick as treasurer. He is also an active member of many community organizations, including the N.E. Slovak Club, the Triangle Club, the Wilkes-Barre Eagles Club, the American Legion, AMVETS, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Polish American Vets, the Knights of Columbus, and the Catholic War Vets. And Judge Kane serves as an officer of the Wyoming Valley Crime Clinic. This is quite a list.

It is a distinct privilege to honor Judge Kane on receiving the Greater Wilkes-Barre Friendly Sons Man of the Year Award, and I commend him on his lifetime of public and community service.

CAMPUS ACCOUNTABILITY AND SAFETY ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, it is time to further address the epidemic of sexual assaults at our nation's college and university campuses. During some of the most formative years of their lives, stu-

dents across the country should not have to live in fear of being stalked or abused. That is why a bipartisan group have come together to introduce the Campus Accountability and Safety Act that will address ambiguities in the law, strengthen protections and enforcement, and improve reporting by universities.

Rape is a horrific crime that exacts a physical and psychological toll on survivors. Women trying to get an education should not have to worry that they might also be victimized by predators on their campuses. This legislation establishes new campus resources and support services for student survivors; ensures minimum training standards for on-campus personnel, creates new historic transparency requirements, requires a uniform discipline process and coordination with law enforcement, and establishes enforceable Title IX penalties and stiffer penalties for Clery Act violations.

I applaud the work of our colleagues in the Senate on their comprehensive and bipartisan bill, and thank my co-lead Rep. PATRICK MEEHAN for teaming up on this legislation. I am hopeful that the House will take up this effort in tandem with the Senate so that we can put a bill on the President's desk.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 05, 2015 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MARCH 10

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the posture of the Department of the Navy in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment

To hold hearings to examine venture exchanges and small-cap companies.

SD-538

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine tax complexity, compliance, and administration, focusing on the merits of simplification in tax reform.

SD-215

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine United States policy in Ukraine, focusing on countering Russia and driving reform.

SD-419

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine continuing America's leadership in medical innovation for patients.

SD-430

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights

To hold hearings to examine the antitrust decrees that govern the market for music.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Veterans Health Administration.

SD-124

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities

To receive a closed briefing on Iran's military and intelligence activities and impact on regional security.

SVC-217

3 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Congressional Budget Office and the Government Accountability Office.

SD-138

MARCH 11

9 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the National Nuclear Security Administration.

SD-138

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on SeaPower

To hold hearings to examine Marine Corps ground modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.

SR-222

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the President's request for authorization to use force against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), focusing on military and diplomatic efforts.

SD-419

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for Indian Health Service.

SD-124

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Transportation and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for

- fiscal year 2016 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
SD-562
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine a nationwide public safety wireless broadband network.
SR-253
Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine state regulators' perspectives on the clean power plan.
SD-406
Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine certain nominations.
SD-226
- 10:30 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Defense
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2016 for the Army.
SD-192
Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine benefits of a balanced budget.
SD-608
- 2 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
To hold hearings to examine protecting religious freedom abroad.
SD-124
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support
To hold hearings to examine military construction, environmental, energy, and base closure programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SH-216
- MARCH 12
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine U.S. Northern Command and U.S. Southern Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program; with the possibility of a closed session in SVC-217 following the open session.
SD-G50
- 9:45 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for
- fiscal year 2016 for the Secretary of the Senate, the Senate Sergeant at Arms, and the Capitol Police.
SD-124
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2016 for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Marshals Service, Drug Enforcement Administration, and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; to be followed by a closed session in SVC-217 at approximately 12:00 p.m.
SD-192
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine S. 556, to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting.
SD-366
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Visa Waiver Program, focusing on implications for United States national security.
SD-342
- 10:30 a.m.
Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine how prepared Americans are for retirement.
SD-562
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
To receive a closed briefing on missile defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SVC-217
- MARCH 17
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the state of technological innovation related to the electric grid.
SD-366
- MARCH 18
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs to examine the legislative presentation from multiple veterans service organizations.
SD-G50
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Communications Commission.
SR-253
- MARCH 19
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine U.S. Strategic Command, U.S. Transportation Command, and U.S. Cyber Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SD-G50
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine U.S. crude oil export policy.
SD-366
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Airland
To hold hearings to examine Air Force force structure and modernization in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR-222
- MARCH 24
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine management reforms to improve forest health and socioeconomic opportunities on the nation's forest system.
SD-366
- MARCH 25
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces
To hold hearings to examine ballistic missile defense programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2016 and the Future Years Defense Program.
SR-222
- MARCH 26
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine the Administration's Quadrennial Energy Review.
SD-366